**Giving Back Is This Couple’s Mantra**

“We make a living by what we get, we make a life by what we give”

--Winston Churchill

Roosevelt and Marlene Petry, owners of GP Industrial Contractors, a company that specializes in building refineries and petrochemical plants, have chosen to give their time, talent, and part of their treasure to students attending Texas Southern University.

“TSU is a great place for a person to start their career, especially our youth,” Roosevelt said. “Globally, higher education and continuing education is important and my wife and I want to do our part to help TSU compete on a global scale.”

To that end, Mr. and Mrs. Petry recently pledged a gift of $125,000 to Texas Southern University. So there would be both immediate and long-term impact from their gift, the Petry’s gave $10,000 to the President’s Leadership

--See Giving on page 5

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**Former Miss Texas Southern Promoted**

Former Miss Texas Southern University and public relations expert, media coach and speaker, Zakiya Larry, was recognized for her achievements in the field of communications with a promotion to director of media relations at The Potter’s House/T.D. Ministries.

Larry is a 2006 graduate of the School of Communication with an honors degree in Broadcast Journalism. As a member of the TSU debate team, she won first place in International Parliamentary Debate in Rome, Italy and conducted communications workshops in Johannesburg, South Africa. She also spoke in the East Room at the White House, broadcast live in 160 countries. An active part of the Texas Southern family, Larry also was part of The Frederick Douglass Honors Program and a member of the Gamma Psi Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

Larry joined The Potter’s House/T.D. Ministries’ organization in the spring of 2011 as public relations specialist. In just over two and a half years, she has managed publicity for the blockbuster hit, “Jumping the Broom” and managed content and production for Oprah’s Life

--See Promoted on page 2

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**TSU Tigers Top Fall Season Finishers**

Texas Southern Brian Alvarado ended the 2013 men’s cross country season with a fourth place finish in the Southwestern Athletic Conference (SWAC) championship meet held in Clinton, Miss. The senior from Houston completed the 8k run with a time of 27:23.18 which earned him All-SWAC first team honors.

--See TSU Tigers on page 2

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**Giving Thanks**

I am extremely thankful during this holiday season for the divine favor bestowed upon me, my loving family and the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of our young people! Happy Holidays from Kevin A. Adams and Family.

--Kevin A. Adams, assistant dean, School of Communication

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I am thankful for my family, friends, home, job, good health and the God-given talent to break mathematics down so students really understand it. Happy holidays!

- Cher C. Crockett, PhD, Mathematics Department

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I am thankful for my colleagues, students, and the opportunity to serve at Texas Southern University!

- Mutaakibir, Yoruba

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I’m thankful for God allowing me one more day here on earth alive and well, one more day praying for the next. I’m thankful for my parents taking on the responsibility of teaching me how to grow and become a lady. I’m thankful for my children for being in my life and being good kids. I’m thankful for the man who came into my life and made me happy, safe, and secure. I’m thankful for my job and still being able to have some kind of sanity here at TSU. But above all I’m thankful for me and the kind of person I turned out to be.

- Reba Francis Hall, administrative assistant, Thurgood Marshall School of Law

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I am thankful for the many blessings God has awarded me all of my life, but this past year’s blessings have left me speechless. He has blessed me with a wonderful, loving husband, and a beautiful, healthy baby girl. I have a wonderful and supportive family, and I am thankful for our life, health, and strength. I was able to see my 40th birthday….What more could a girl ask for? I’m blessed beyond measure!!!

- Audrey Jefferson-Harrison, assistant director, Alumni Relations & Special Events

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This year I am thankful for my family, good friends, and peace of mind.

- Gabrielle H.M. Floyd, visiting instructor, assistant volleyball coach

--Continues on page 2--
Civil Rights Leader Rev. T.J. Jemison Dies at 95

The Rev. T.J. Jemison, a civil rights icon known as the architect of the 1953 Baton Rouge bus boycott, which later served as a nonviolent protest model for the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. in Montgomery, Ala., died Friday at the age of 95. Rev. Jemison is the father of Diane Pollard Jemison, professor in the Visual and Performing Arts Department.

Two Former Students from the School of Public Affairs Elected to Public Office

eMPA program alumna Wanda Adams was elected to the Houston Independent School District Board of Trustees, District 9 seat. Tisha R. Thomas, an eMPA program alumna, also made history by becoming the first African American woman to be elected to the Euclid School Board in Ohio.

TSU Ocean of Soul Will Perform In Thanksgiving Parade

The Ocean of Soul has accepted an invitation to participate in the 64th annual Thanksgiving Day Parade November 28. This year’s parade pays tribute to Houston by showcasing the city’s finest - from fashion, food and heroes; to culture, sports and talent; adding a much needed makeover to this 64-year tradition. Gates open at 7:00am; Parade starts 9:00 a.m. in downtown Houston. Easy access parking is available along the route. To ensure a full-access parade route, the 64th Annual Thanksgiving Day Parade presented by H-E-B, will be free and open to the public. Bleacher and specialty seating will not be available but there will be plenty of curbside space along the route for lawn chairs and blankets. To see the route, visit http://www.houstontx.gov/thanksgivingparade/index.html.

Promoted...continued from page 1

Class and Washington Watch with Roland Martin. Larry also managed a successful media event for philanthropic endeavors in Nairobi, Kenya as well as launched and managed a campaign of healing and community bonding surrounding the one-year anniversary of the Aurora “Dark Knight” theater tragedy, gaining more than 80 million media impressions surrounding a two-hour event.

Giving Thanks --Continues from page 1—

I am thankful for my God, my family and my job here in the Registrar’s office. It has been a trying year but I continue to stay prayed up and positive.
-Leslie Brown, general clerk II, Office of Registrar

I am so extremely thankful for good health and strength, family and friends. God has truly blessed my family and I and for that I am thankful. I am thankful for Texas Southern University and desirous of her becoming the premiere urban serving institution in the country.
-Marquis J. Johnson, assistant baseball coach

It is not a secret; life is just a moment from eternity. From the beginning, the will and the instance of existence for me has been a journey of thoughtfulness. As we travel through life each day, we are educated with each passing moment to choose up or down. Words can’t express the joy of existence with its entire events, some more celebrated than others, but we all yearn for the next opportunity to adapt and survive. I am more than thankful for each wonderful day to have the opportunity to try and help lift someone up in some small way to make it to the next step in their life for the good. During this time of year, we especially should stop and reflect on how good the “joy of life” is when you care for one another. Be Safe and Thankful.
-Leddie E. Smith, acting coordinator Recruitment & Admissions office

I am thankful for being alive, having my senses, and all the motivations that keep me rising anew every day.
-Huong Truong,senior student worker,School of Pharmacy and Health Sciences-Healthcare Administration Department

I’m so thankful that my mom is still with us and still in her right mind at 80. I’m thankful for my only child, my daughter Courtney and my family. May the Lord bless and keep you this season and many more to come.
-Leslie Coleman Harris, DPS Traffic/Parking Enforcement

TSU News

The deadline to submit news or information for TSU E-News is Monday by noon. Submissions may be sent to calliskd@tsu.edu or pickensk@tsu.edu. For any questions or comments, call Eva Pickens at 713-313-4205.
Watch for Static Electricity While Refueling Vehicles

The Petroleum Equipment Institute is working on a campaign to try and make people aware of fires as a result of static electricity at gas pumps. Over 150 cases of these types of fires have been researched and the results may surprise you. With the onset of winter and cold dry days ahead, static electricity will become more prevalent.

Results of the research:

- Almost all cases involved the person getting back in the vehicle while the nozzle was still pumping gas. When finished, they went back to pull the nozzle out and the fire started, as a result of static.
- Out of 150 cases, almost all of them were women. (Most men never get back in their vehicle until completely finished. This is why they are seldom involved in these types of fires.)
- Most had on rubber-soled shoes.
- Even though cell phones have not been associated with these types of fires, leave them in the vehicle or turn them off.
- It is the vapors that come off of the gasoline that cause the fire when ignited with static charges.
- There were 29 fires where the vehicle was re-entered and the nozzle was touched during refueling from a variety of makes and models. Some resulted in extensive damage to the vehicle, to the station, and to the customer.
- Seventeen fires occurred before, during or immediately after the gas cap was removed and before fueling began.

Never get back into your vehicle while fueling it with gas. If you absolutely have to get in your vehicle while the gas is pumping, make sure you get out, close the door touching the metal, before you ever pull the nozzle out. This way the static from your body will be discharged before you ever remove the nozzle where the flammable vapors are located.

Watch a fire at a gas pump caused by static electrical discharge and read additional information here.
http://www.pei.org/PublicationsResources/SafetyResources/StopStaticCampaign.aspx

Remember: No task is so important that it be done at the risk of safety.
### Official SWAC Calendar of Events

**Thursday, December 5**
**SWAC HALL OF FAME INDUCTION CEREMONY**
6:00 p.m. Westin Galleria Houston
A championship salute to the class of 2013 SWAC Hall of Fame Inductees - Eight inductees: Reggie Barlow (Alabama State), Carol Cummings (Prairie View A&M), Robert Hopkins (Grambling State), James Jones (Grambling State), Richard Myles (Alcorn State), James Osborne (Southern) and Charles Ruth (Mississippi Valley State). Invitation only.

**Friday, December 6**
**CHAMPIONSHIP MEDIA PRESS CONFERENCE**
10:00 a.m. Reliant Stadium
SWAC “TURN UP” KICK-OFF PARTY
Grooves of Houston
2300 Pierce, Houston, TX 77003
Tickets: FREE all night

**THE OFFICIAL SWAC ALUMNI KICK-OFF EVENT**
Bambou
2540 University Boulevard, Houston, TX 77005
Tickets: FREE with RSVP

**Saturday, December 7**
**THE OFFICIAL SWAC ALUMNI POST-GAME BASH**
Grooves of Houston
2300 Pierce, Houston, TX 77003
THE OFFICIAL SWAC CHAMPIONSHIP PARTY WITH DJ BABEY DREW AND DJ TRACI STEELE from VHI’s LOVE & HIP HOP ATLANTA
Club Venue
719 Main Street, Houston, TX 77056

**Sunday, December 8**
**SWAC GOES TO GOSPEL**
House of Blues
1204 Caroline Street, Houston, Texas 77002
Doors: 1:00 p.m. and Show: 1:30 p.m.
Tickets: $19 (kids 3-12), $35 (seniors 65+), $42 (adults – discount code: SWAC)

### University Calendar 2013-14

**Thursday, November 28 - Friday, November 29**
Thanksgiving Holiday
Campus Closed

**Tuesday, December 3, 2013**
Faculty Assembly and Senate Holiday Social
SSLC President's Lounge, 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

**Wednesday, December 4, 2013**
COST and COPHS Final Frenzy
Science Center Atrium, 5:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

**Thursday, December 5, 2013**
Faculty Assembly and Senate Holiday Social
SSLC President's Lounge, 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

**Friday, December 6, 2013**
Gospel According to Jazz Concert Featuring Kirk Whalum, Chante Moore, and Gerald Albright
Sawyer Auditorium, 7:30 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.
For more information contact Eva Pickens at 713-313-4205

**Saturday, December 7, 2013**
Tiger Tidings
University Museum, 12:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.
For more information contact L. Faye Marshall at 713-313-7136

SWAC Football Championship and Battle of the Bands
Reliant Stadium, 1:00 p.m.
For tickets call 281-367-9717
Scholarship program that will be matched for a $20,000 scholarship to be awarded to a student in the fall of 2014, and established a $115,000 endowment that will also be matched for a total endowment of $230,000 and a total contribution of $250,000 to build TSU’s future. The endowed scholarship will be used to encourage students to pursue entrepreneurship in the School of Business.

The Petry donation is believed to be the largest individual donation by a non-alumnus in recent history.

It was a strategic courtship by a mutual friend of the university Mr. D-Mars Keith Davis who introduced Petry to Eva Pickens, TSU’s associate vice president of University Advancement. “I instantly fell in love with the atmosphere of TSU,” Petry stated about his connection to Texas Southern. He began talks a few months ago on ways of lending support to the university, visited the campus on a couple of occasions, sat down with President John Rudley…and the rest is history. Petry said he was struck and amazed by what the president has managed to do in such a short period of time.

Petry added, “I think the icing on the cake was when Dr. Rudley took time from what I know is a crowded schedule, put me on a golf cart, and proudly gave me a personal tour of the campus, explaining in detail every computer lab, walkway, flower bed, building renovation or maintenance update along the way.” Petry quickly signed on.

The Petry’s even took their philanthropic efforts up a notch by participating in TSU’s 2013 Homecoming festivities, where they donated to the University a new customized 21’ bar-b-que pit. Along with the pit, they also donated enough food and trimmings to provide for 1,063 students and alumni who had gathered for the university’s traditional tailgating experience. Petry brought along family and friends and for eight consecutive hours served ribs, chicken, sausage and sides until late in the evening.

“I had such a great time,” an excited Petry stated. “The chance to mingle with students and graduates of this institution made me realize how much pride exists here. It’s not something anyone can explain to you, you have to see it, hear it and feel it for yourself. And that’s exactly what we did.”

Philanthropy and helping others is nothing new to the Petrys. The couple’s reputation for giving to various charities and kids is equal to their reputation for earning money.

To show their appreciation for the kind interest that they have shown to Texas Southern University and its students, the couple joined a very elite group by being honored with the Innovative Leadership award presented on October 18, 2013 by Dr. John M. Rudley during the annual homecoming President’s Gala, for their innovative support of the University.

To help students impacted by the new federal guidelines regarding financial assistance and parent plus loans, Texas Southern University has launched a new scholarship campaign called the Graduation Success Scholarship.

Officially launched November 2013, the priority of this scholarship campaign is to help those students who are one year or less from completing their degrees.

Individuals may donate to the university’s colleges or schools, to a specific program or to the general university scholarship fund. No donations are too small, so one may give whatever gift they are comfortable giving.

If you are compelled to follow the example set forth by Roosevelt and Marlene Petry, the minimum commitment to establish an endowment is $10,000 and must be paid out over four years. Once your commitment is fulfilled, your gift will be immediately matched by the University, doubling its value. Created endowments can be named for the donor, their family, a company, or in honor/memory of a loved one. An endowment is an excellent way to create a legacy and provide tuition for a student in perpetuity.

Support for Texas Southern can be received in a number of ways. You may visit the university via the website at www.tsu.edu/giving, or if you prefer, you can mail your gift or call the University’s Development Office.

Please mail to: Texas Southern University, Office of Development – 3100 Cleburne St. - Houston, TX. 77004.

You may speak to Jeff Shaw, associate director of Development at 713-313-4257, or any staff member in the Office of Development by calling 713-313-4276.